

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 04149

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GW, GE
SUBJECT: GDR PROTESTS FRG ACTIVITIES ON JUNE 17

1. ALL GDR MEDIA OF JUNE 20 REPORT THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KURT NIER PROTESTED TO FRG PERMREP GAUS ON JUNE 19 THE "APPEARANCES OF OFFICIAL FRG REPRESENTATIVES IN RECENT DAYS". ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, NIER ASSERTED THAT FRG POLITICIANS HAD DEMONSTRATED "AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS" AGAINST THE GDR IN SPEECHES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AND HAD DIRECTLY INTERFERED THEREBY IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE GDR. SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL DISPLEASURE WERE STATEMENTS OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION SCHMUDE ON THE "LESSONS" OF THIS OCCASION. THE PROTEST DECLARED THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE AGAINST THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE BASIC TREATY AND THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND A HINDRANCE TO FURTHER NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. THE FRG IS CALLED UPON IN THE PROTEST TO MEND ITS WAYS IN THE INTEREST OF DETENTE AND BETTER RELATIONS ALONG THE NORMS OF COEXISTENCE BETWEEN STATES AND PEOPLES. WESTERN
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MEDIA REPORTING OF THIS PROTEST NOTES THAT THE FRG REJECTED IT FORTHWITH.

2. COMMENT: WE TEND TO DOUBT THAT JUNE 17 RHETORIC OR NIER'S PROTEST WILL HAVE ANY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON SUBSTANCE OF FRG-GDR RELATIONS, IN LARGE PART BECAUSE BOTH THE FRG AND GDR APPEAR TO WANT TO MOVE FORWARD

IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS. IN DISCUSSION JUNE 15 WITH DCM, GAUS HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY ON THE TIMING OF HIS JUNE 12 MEETING WITH HONECKER. GAUS IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE GDR BADLY NEEDS HARD CURRENCY AND WANTED TO FIND OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE HOW MUCH IT COULD EXPECT FROM THE FRG FOR THE VARIOUS PROJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION OR NEGOTIATION. THE GDR HAD TO WAIT UNTIL A "DECENT" TIME HAD ELAPSED AFTER THE BREZHNEV BONN VISIT AND GROMYKO'S VISIT TO EAST BERLIN BEFORE THE EAST GERMANS COULD APPROACH THE FRG. THE EAST GERMANS, IN GAUS' VIEW, WANTED TO LAY THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE COMMEMORATION OF JUNE 17 AND POSSIBLE CHARGES AND COUNTER CHARGES AND THE ONSET OF SUMMER VACATIONS; OTHERWISE THINGS WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL THE FALL, WITH POSSIBLE UNEXPECTED NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. GAUS SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT FRG OFFICIALS WOULD SAY ON JUNE 17, BUT WITH THE HONECKER-GAUS MEETING OUT OF THE WAY, GAUS COULD REJECT "ANY PROTEST NIER MIGHT MAKE IN THE MORNING ABOUT JUNE 17 SPEECHES OF FRG OFFICIALS, AND CONDUCT HIS NEGOTIATIONS IN THE AFTERNOON". NIER'S PROTEST, AS CARRIED IN THE PRESS, APPEARS TO US TO BE AS MILD AS POSSIBLE, AND SHOULD ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS WITHOUT ANY FURTHER DELAY. BOLEN

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